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From the Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP
Secretary of State

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Dear Karin,

Thank you for your letter of 28 July about the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). Like you, I am very pleased that IATI signatories have been able to secure agreement on the phase 1 IATI standards. As you note, this is a critical step forward. I would also like to thank you and your colleagues for your role in securing this important agreement.

The Department for International Development aims to implement the phase 1 IATI standards as fully as possible by end 2010 or very early 2011. We also aim to go beyond the agreed standards in this timeframe. Under the UK Aid Transparency Guarantee, we will be publishing documentation for new projects from January 2011, ahead of the IATI timetable. We will be very pleased to share our experiences with other donors as you suggest, and will encourage them to follow our lead as rapidly as possible.

I agree with you that meeting the potential of IATI means going beyond the phase 1 standards. My team is working hard to ensure that IATI signatories agree on phases 2 and 3 by December of this year. I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure we retain a high level of ambition in this important area.

*With every good wish,
Yours
Andrew Mitchell*

ANDREW MITCHELL

Andrew Mitchell